Phosphate (SSP) fertilizer at Amjhore which utilises the acid produced from the pyrites so mined.

(b) to (e). So far there has been no report of any adverse affect or displacement of the local population on account of pollution due to mining and manufacturing operations of PPCL. However, the ground water pollution due to acidic water discharge from the mine and from the shale dumps has been countered by PPCL taking corrective measures like setting up of high capacity Mine Effluent Treatment plant to neutralise the acidic discharge. Neutral water is now being discharged after treatment. Besides this, PPCL has made provision for supply of potable water, in association with the Public Health Engineering Deparment, through pipeline in 6 adjacent villages where ground water was reported to have been affected due to pyrite mining.

[Translation]

Promotion of Hindi in Railways

3040. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to promote the use of Hindi in the Ministry; and

(b) the percentage of work being done in the Official Language Hindi in the Ministry and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The following steps have been taken to promote the use of Hindi in the Ministry of Railways :

The Ministry of Railways have been notified under rule 10(4) and specified for doing work in Hindi under Rule 8 (4) of the Official Language Rules - 1976. Various incentive schemes have been introduced. Efforts are being made to increase the number of Hindi stenographers by making direct recruitment and by imparting training in Hindi Stenography. In Board's office, the key boards of 151 Roman Typewriters have been replaced in Devnagri increasing the number of Devnagri typewriters to 227. Few applications including Budgetary and Parliamentary work have been taken-up on Personal Computers in Hindi. Efforts are being made to increase the use of Hindi on Personal computers. 28 meetings have been conducted with HODs of different directorates of Board's Office during last one year in order to review the progress of Hindi in various Directorates. In order to ensure the compliance of Official Language Rules, inspections/contact programmes are being carried out in different sections of Board's Office. Check-points have been set up in Railway Board Press, Central Registry and Issue and Despatch sections in order to ensure the compliance of Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act and to ensure that all letters received from 'A' and 'B' regions are replied to in Hindi. For this purpose, physical checks are carried out by deputing staff on these check-points.

(b)
1. Percentage of letters issued in Hindi to 'A' 'B' and 'C' regions is 43.5%.
2. Compliance of section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 is 97.5%.
3. Percentage use of Hindi in Registers/ Diaries is 92.3%.
4. 20 sections have been nominated to do all their work in Hindi.
5. Percentage of Personal Computers made capable of working bilingually 84.8%.
6. Publication of Codes/manuals in Hindi 75%.

Appointment of Agents for sale of Tickets

3041. VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Department has appointed agents for the sale of rail tickets and reservation of berths at Kota;

(b) if so, the names of those agents; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Two City Booking Agencies viz. M/s. Surendra Co., Rampura Bazar, Kota and M/s. Kapoor and Co., Aerodrome Circle are functioning at Kota for selling unreserved tickets to passengers. Besides, two Rail Travellers' Service Agents viz. M/s. Om Singh, Sohan Singh and M/s. Rajesh Traders have been appointed in Kota city to purchase the tickets from the railway reservation office on behalf of the intending passengers by standing in queue and realise the prescribed charges fixed by the Railway administration.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Reservation Quota

3042. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is persistent demand to increase the reservation quota from the Bangalore Railway Station in all trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). There is no specific demand for increase of reservations quota in all trains at Bangalore railway station.

Satellite Linkage of Police Stations

3043. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up of POLNET using satellite for linkages of police stations all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has released necessary funds to the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have accorded approval in Principle to the POLNET project;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and

(g) the time by which the Union Government is likely to clear the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (g). The Government proposes to have a satellite based communication network dedicated to the police and independent of the Department of Telecommunications. The project envisages provision of connectivity to all the police stations in the country via V-Sats. 833 V-SATs have been presently earmarked for various States Union Territories and Central Para-Military Forces. A total amount of Rs. 154.20 crores is involved in the Scheme out of which Rs. 77.51 crores (non-recurring) has been recommended by the Tenth Finance Commissoin as the share of the States except Gujarat, Haryana Karnataka and Maharashtra. The amount allocated to the States by the Tenth Finance Commission will be utilised, with the consent of the States, by the Central Government for the purchase of equipment to be installed in the States. The Government is interacting with the States to expedite implementation of the project which is envisaged to be completed in approximately four years.

[Translation]

Rail Link with North Eastern Region

3044. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities connected so far with the North Eastern regions of the country;

(b) the number of cities likely to be linked with the said regions; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to link city of Jaipur with the North Eastern regions directly by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Guwahati is directly linked with a number of cities/towns including Calcutta, Bangalore, Delhi, Vishakhapatnam, Trivandrum, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Bombay, Gorakhpur, Cochin, Madras, Lucknow, Jammu etc.

(b) After the gauge conversions of Dimapur-Tinsukia section, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail and 5659/5660 Kamrup Express are proposed to be extended to Tinsukia to link more areas of the North East.

(c) No, Sir.

[English]

Sachakhand Express

3045. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run Sachakhand Express between Nanded-Amritsar daily instead of weekly and to increase the reservation quota of passenger trains running/passing from the Nanded;

(b) if so, the details in this regard

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) whether the Government have received any memorandum in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) within the existing operational and resource constraints it is not possible to consider increase in frequency As regards enhancement of reservation quota at Nanded, computerised reservation facility linked with Secunderabad and Mumbai PRSs have been provided at this station. The passengers of Nanded can seek reservation on first come first served basis in all trains on these PRSs (Passengers Reservation System).

(d) Yes, Sir.

Construction of Platforms

3046. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to construct additional platforms and additional rail roads in Alleppey Railway Station of the Trivandrum Division; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Agro-based Industries

3047. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes under which concessions are being provided to the agro-based units alongwith the details of concessions provided so far during the last three years, unit-wise;